

YEAR BOOK
OF THE
HEATHER
SOCIETY

1971



THE HEATHER SOCIETY



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The Secretary/Treasurer's Report

1970 has been a year of marked progress. For the first time our membership has topped the 700 mark, with 746 including 48 joint husband/wife members. Much as we rejoice over the increasing membership, the time has probably come when we can no longer print the full list of members in the Year Book but must confine ourselves to supplying the names of new ones as they come, in the next publication, be it Bulletin or Year Book. We trust that you will be able to keep track of the membership by referring to the last full list, supplemented by those we shall publish from time to time. This will not be able to take account of lost members which this year number 62.

As we now, thanks to Mr Patrick's personal influence, appear to have a printer who can be relied upon to deliver the Year Book on time, I shall be able to let you have it as our first publication in the new year, thus giving more time for receiving your comments and opinions on it for the Spring Bulletin which will follow in March or early April, according to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting. This year it will be on May 5th, and details will be sent with the bulletin. In it we hope to include a review of Mr Terry Underhill's new book on heathers as well as of a beautiful book sent to us by our member Herr Hans Hornung, of Meldorf, showing how heathers are used in conjunction with other plants in North Germany. Although unfortunately I know no German, the pictures and plans can be appreciated by everyone, and I was also pleased to note that the stresses were marked on the specific names, which should result in a more uniform pronunciation: e.g. Tetrálix, cinérea, etc.

I must not conclude without a personal note of appreciation of the work our Slide Librarian is doing. For the first time I recently gave a lecture in Horley to a women's club and on asking Mr Prew for the loan of some slides I was sent a most beautiful selection, most carefully packed. Mr

Prew added some of his private collection, and so did Mr Hale, whose pictures of his delightful garden in Haslemere perhaps stole the show, because the ladies announced that a visit there would make an excellent summer outing for their club. You have been warned, Mr Hale!

C. I. MACLEOD

Impressions during September 1970

Sir John Charrington, Crockham Hill, Kent

We have had here, as probably at many other places, an unusual summer with a prolonged drought through May and June.

Whether the strange performance of my vagans and of some callunas is due to the weather I cannot tell, but you may be interested to have some of my impressions at mid-September.

The vagans have been highly successful amongst the small recently planted varieties, but the larger and older plants have been irregular and far from satisfactory. 'Pyrenees Pink' has produced practically no bloom at all; 'Pallida' is only just coming into flower and then chiefly among that part of the group further from the sun. 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' is patchy and 'Lyonesse' quite poor. But, on the other hand, my equally special Cornish friends, 'Mullion' and 'Kynance', are splendid.

Much as I admire Mr Sparkes's golden varieties, I do not think they look their best with a pink bloom and are really more effective in winter.

Some of my earlier *Calluna* plantings, 'Cuprea', 'Alportii' and 'Serlei Aurea', are getting so leggy and out of shape that I am inclined to make a big clearance in a few weeks and thus have room for some new varieties.

Three years ago I cleared an herbaceous border, put in two bales of peat and planted 275 *Cal. v.* 'J. H. Hamilton'. They have been slow to grow and to form a mass, but,

though not quite yet at their best, the show was delightful this summer and I took a colour photograph of them. John Letts did me well to collect such a good lot of plants.

I have two cinereas still in bloom—'Eden Valley' and 'Cevennes'—the latter a few left from a bed of 24; a beautiful variety but so difficult to keep alive. Why, I wonder, does 'County Wicklow' go brown so soon? It is a most beautiful plant but has very poor lasting power when compared with 'H. E. Beale' and 'Peter Sparkes'.

Finally, I still believe that the value of heathers for decorative purposes is not nearly enough appreciated. In addition, they will last for weeks in water.

I have had a daughter-in-law staying with me recently and she arranged three vases so well—mostly 'H. E. Beale' and 'Peter Sparkes' with a few vagans mixed in—that I felt more should be done to popularise this use of heathers.

We hope the R.H.S. will allow us to have a class at their September competition for vases of any variety arranged for decorative effect, and for which I would be glad to present a silver challenge cup.

Heathers at Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate

V. J. A. Russ, Harrogate, Yorks.

At Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate, in August the majority of the heather plants in the nursery beds were transplanted—a project involving many hundreds of plants which had to be deferred from the Spring owing to weather conditions.

The bulk of these (whose ages vary from one to five years old) have been put in the large upper beds of the new garden extension—consisting of those varieties of which there were a sufficient number of plants to make an effective display. Others have been planted in the old Heath Garden, which has undergone an extensive rejuvenation, a number of the large old straggling plants having been discarded.

Conifers have been planted in the new extension beds and

already one can see the basis of a very pleasing heather landscape.

At the time of the movement the callunas and vagans were in full flower and the new extension at once attracted considerable attention on that account. All species are represented in the new planting and as nearly all have been labelled it should provide a useful illustration to visitors of the behaviour of callunas and ericas in this part of the country.

The drought has not helped these plants to settle in but we must hope that they will do so before the carnea season starts.



The Life of a Heather Plant

Fred J. Chapple, Port Erin, Isle of Man

'Given good conditions, how long should a heather plant live?' was a question I was recently asked. I asked the President of the Society how he would answer it and this is what he wrote . . .

It depends to some extent on where it is grown, the soil it grows in and the attention given to it at regular intervals—or no attention at all. Given reasonably good conditions and in suitable soil and clipping off faded blooms in the spring, its life span should be not less than 20 years.

I revisited my old house in July last and noticed a batch of vagans which I planted in 1945. I always trimmed them in April into a rounded bush. They looked well. I also saw in a nearby garden, and in splendid shape, a border of carneas which must have been planted 40 years ago. At 'Furzey' in the New Forest in 1952, Captain Dalrymple told me that many of the heathers—and a fine collection it was—were planted in 1920. Each one was cut back, hard back, pruned in fact every March regardless of weather excepting snow. They seemed none the worse for their longevity and such severe treatment. I should have been proud to possess them.

Not everyone agrees with my contention. Some affirm that after six years a heather should be removed and replaced by another. That is certainly better for trade!

A Heather Programme

Dorothy Metheny, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Somewhat over ten years ago an Ericaceae study group to which I belonged decided that they had amassed information that might be of interest to amateur gardeners of this vicinity, and since that time, certainly not either as a botanist nor as an expert gardener, but just as someone who has learned a little more about heathers than the average amateur gardener, I have given some 25 talks on the subject of heathers. Mostly I have been addressing garden clubs, and I think I have finally evolved an outline of a one and one-half hour programme that is satisfying and, one hopes, practical for an audience of this sort.

We show specimens of all available species, either fresh or dried and mounted, pointing out the obvious differences between the genera which simplify recognition of them. (I have found that a number of gardeners suppose that 'heather' refers to one genus only.) With the specimens still at hand, we next show a distribution map (of sorts!) of Europe, Africa and the pertinent Atlantic islands, on which are indicated in various coloured pencils the natural habitats of the genera *Calluna*, *Erica*, *Daboecia* and *Bruckenthalia* (which hereabouts is regularly sold as a 'heather' whatever the purists may feel about it).

As sources of Further Information we show the books by Chapple, Maxwell and Patrick and Letts, and some of the heather sheets reprinted from our Ericaceae lectures, etc.

Now it is time to turn down the lights and start showing slides: *Bruckenthalia* flowering in the garden; *Cassiope mertensiana* and *Phyllodoce empetriformis* flowering in their natural stations in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle; heather-clad hills in the Scottish Highlands; *Calluna* and *Erica cinerea* heath in the Dee Valley, Aberdeenshire; the moor at Woodbury Common, Devon; the Cornish Heath (*E. vagans*) with lovely Scots Pines, on Goonhilly Downs, poetically misty; *E. vagans*, *E. cinerea* and *Calluna* clothing an old wall near St Keverne. If we had been able to get it this would certainly be the place to insert a slide of *E. ciliaris* at the Poole estuary. We are able to show *E. arborea*

with *Spartium junceum* in Athens, and *E. multiflora* on a roadside of the Island of Rhodes.

The slide of the Heather Culture chart shows as follows:

Provide	Avoid
GOOD DRAINAGE . . . medium loam . . .	stiff clay . . . fresh manure . . .
OPEN SITUATION . . . sandy- peaty soil.	much shade . . . rich soil . . .
Ordinary soil . . . poor soil + peat.	fertilisers . . . much lime . . . cultivating around roots.

A badly root-bound *E. x darleyensis* demonstrates what happens to plants left too long in pots. *C. v. 'The Molecule'* lifted after a few months in the ground is a reminder that the rootball of a happily situated small heather can be considerably larger than the visible top of the plant. A slide of 'right' and 'wrong' planting shows the foolish appearance of a too-high planted *Calluna* teetering around on one leg. A well-mulched bed of young plants is a reminder of how to avoid having to hand weed. And finally comes a shot of the watering can over young plants.

The Annual Care section shows the evils of leaving *C. v. 'Serlei Aurea'* untrimmed so that it develops a great mass of foliage around its lower parts. And we explain the possibility of gradually rehabilitating such a neglected plant by selectively pruning out a few entire stems, thus allowing rejuvenating light into its centre. A mid-April slide of *E. carnea* 'Ruby Glow' shows the tendency of the carneas to quickly clothe themselves with new foliage concealing the spent bells, thus eliminating the necessity to trim them unless for reasons of containment. *E. carnea* 'Snow Queen' in mid-July has already well-developed flower buds for next winter's show, and impresses the viewer with the advisability of not trimming carneas after the first of June. Then there are shots of our hillside before and after the March shearing.

Next follows a short section on Frost Damage. The star performer in this act is our poor old *E. australis* (type) which last winter was frozen right to the ground for the

third time in the ten years we have had it. Between the second and third freezes it attained a height of eight feet. One growing season after this latest cut-back it has 18 or 20 stems, two to three feet high. If we escape having a killing freeze this winter (1969-70) we should see its lovely pink bells again early in 1971. The moral of this, of course, is not to be precipitate about discarding roots of frost damaged plants.

The Propagation Section includes shots of self-sown *Calluna* seedlings in a peaty bed, the cutting box, a plant sunk for layering, self-layered rootlets on an *E. cinerea*, adventitious roots developed on a compact *C. v. 'Nana Compacta'* in a moist mild winter, the progress from tiny seedlings to a solid planting of *E. vagans* in seven years. A slide of *C. v. 'Mrs Ronald Gray'* in the garden of Mrs Manning, Sebastopol, California, with a golden-leaved mutation suggests exciting possibilities. (Alas! their propagation effort failed.)

The Garden Principles chart stresses the well-known (to the experienced grower) rule of using masses and lines to give a composed effect, of planting for undulating height and colour variety for added interest in extensive plantings, of remembering to keep habit, foliage and colour harmonious. And it mentions those prima-donna exceptions to the rule which can be planted singly—the Tree Heaths, character plants, and plants in special spots. A slide of a young plant in a four-inch pot, beside an enormous matured *Calluna*, is a warning against ignoring the ultimate size of what one is planting. A picture of a spotted (colour) arrangement of carneas on a bank is a horrible example of what always looks to me like the measles.

The Garden Uses (for the non-heather specialist) could go on and on, but I have finally reduced it to four slides—a tall hedge of free-growing *E. terminalis*, a low hedge of *C. v. 'Alportii'* along a low wall, happily flowering; *C. v. 'Mrs Ronald Gray'* as ground cover under a planting of deciduous azaleas, and the solid green of the sheared heaths framing a brilliantly coloured group of *Azalea 'Glamour'* in spring.

A section on Prima Donnas includes three *Callunas*, 'Foxii Nana', 'Dainty Bess' and 'Sister Anne', *Daboecia*

cantabrica 'Praegerae', *E. australis* 'Mr Robert', and a flowering *E. arborea* 'Alpina' beside a clump of white Birch trunks.

A dozen slides show winter and summer habits of Foliage Colour varieties, and my much-loved *C. v. 'Tomentosa'* with its lovely soft grey foliage and lavender bloom. (N.B.—The bloom is white in our form.—*Ed.*) It might be displaced by that wonderful *C. v. 'Hirsuta Typica'* at the Royal Botanic Gardens if we ever get a stock of it.

The group of Indispensables (remembering that we do not have a number of the much-prized recent developments available in Britain) includes *C. v. 'H. E. Beale'*, *Daboecia cantabrica* (for its attractive foliage and long-flowering season), *E. carnea* 'Carnea' for the same reason, a shot of *E. car.* 'Springwood White' and 'Vivellii' delightfully poking their bright heads up through a layer of white snow, and *E. lusitanica* with its long period of winter interest from bright red buds in December to masses of white bells two or three months later.

For an idea of real Heather Gardens we show flowering season pictures of the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, Wisley, a simple but effective planting on a wall in front of a Seattle home, the University of Washington Arboretum, and the Heather Garden at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital, Seattle.

We conclude with samples of the year-round flowering in our garden. The only pause in our Heather Year seems to come early in May. First out then is *Daboecia azorica*. In June *Bruckenthalia* and the early *cinerreas* commence to show spots of bright colour. July, August and September provide a wealth of colour possibilities in the summer flowering species. The old type form (I suppose) of *E. vagans* with its light mauve flowers may not seem very thrilling as compared with the named forms, but it does have the advantage of keeping its colour through October and November. *C. v. 'Elegantissima'* and my recently appeared 'Autumn Glow' have good colour in those months too. In December the *E. x darleyensis* group, *E. carnea* 'King George' and *E. car.* 'Carnea' are in fine fettle, and the spent *vagans* varieties offer a lovely range of browns from the warm chocolate of 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' to the light dun of

'Alba'. January is brightened by many of the carneas, *E. mediterranea* 'W. T. Rackliff', etc. My favourite February picture is of a group planting of *E. carnea* (type) and 'Springwood White' with a pink-fruited *Pernettya mucronata* and plants of *Rhododendron mucronulatum*, a vision in pink and white! March and April see *E. australis* and 'Mr Robert' with the beginning of the Glenndale hybrid azaleas. Sturdy old *E. x Veitchii* holds the fort right up to the time for *Daboecia azorica* to claim the spotlight with its brilliant bells. By this time anyone should be convinced that there's nothing so satisfactory as heathers in the garden. Discarded from the programme as the years have passed have been a chart and explanation of the botanical relationship of these genera, which I think is not of pressing interest to most gardeners, and the history of heather introductions for garden use. What the garden club ladies appear to really want is practical information on what to grow and how. I used to show enthusiastically dozens and dozens of pictures of every kind of heather genus and species, followed by varieties of every habit, height, foliage colour and flower colour, form and season. Now I think that many of these characters can be worked in as illustrations for the gardening principles involved, leaving the audience of beginners more with something to grasp and less overwhelmed by an indigestible mass of what naturally would be meat and drink to the knowing heather lover.

[After Dr and Mrs Metheny had given a fascinating lecture at the 1969 A.G.M. they most generously donated the 95 beautiful slides they had shown to the Society. Many of the varieties named in Mrs Metheny's article are included in the collection and can be had on application to Mr H. C. Prew (address in Group 3 in the Membership List), the Society's Slide Librarian. Ask for 'Box M', giving ample notice, as the slides are in great demand. Also in Mr Prew's keeping is 'Box A' of 100 slides, a general collection, and 'Box X', 60 slides taken and donated by Mr J. P. Ardon, with a typed copy of the lecture (which is also on tape), going through the heathers, season by season. The Society are grateful for the slides that have been donated. More slides could be profitably used, especially of small gardens with an

attractive bed (or beds) of heathers, to help owners of gardens who, like many of us, have less than half-an-acre.
—Ed.]

*Heathers in Holland and England**

H. van de Laar of Boskoop

It is a great pleasure for me to speak to the Heather Society about *Calluna* and *Erica* as grown in the Dutch nurseries and collections.

First, to tell you about myself, I am co-operator of the Experimental Station at Boskoop; secretary of the Selection Committee of the Royal Boskoop Nurserymen's Association and member of the Dutch Dendrological Union. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fishery, which I am officially under, consented to my giving this lecture to your Society and financed my journey. Heaths and heathers moreover have my special interest, for I am an amateur just like you. Together with Dr Heyting of the Experimental Station at Boskoop, it was very interesting for me to make a trip through southern England last September while visiting a number of nurseries, and Wisley Gardens.

Until recently a rather limited assortment of heathers had been grown in the Netherlands. In the past ten years the number of cultivars has been enormously increased. At the moment we grow nearly 300 species and varieties, many of them imported from England. These are mostly grown by nurserymen, in botanical gardens and at the Heather Garden at Driebergen near Utrecht. Because many of the varieties were not true to name, there was much confusion which was disadvantageous to our export trade. The Selection Committee therefore considered it necessary to plant an extensive collection to check the names and to judge the plants for value and elegance.

An intensive study of the Dutch assortment taught us a lot about the varieties used and the mixing up in the nurseries.

*A lecture given at the Society's A.G.M., 1970.

After checking the most important nurseries and collections at other places, we achieved after a few years a distinct change for the better. The results of this research have been published in *Dendroflora* No. 7.

The assortment in the Netherlands

There is still much confusion among the white-flowering callunas. What, for instance, has been grown in our country as 'Alba Elata' is the earlier flowering 'Alba Erecta'.

Nearly all the plants grown under the name 'Serlei' are wrongly labelled: mostly it is also the very nice and healthy 'Alba Erecta'. The later-flowering true 'Serlei' had formerly been grown in large quantities but now, because of its susceptibility to disease, is practically out of cultivation.

I am nearly sure the American 'Else Frye' is identical with 'Alba Plena'. 'August Beauty' is nearly always the upright-growing 'Mair's Variety' of which, apart from that, we have two different forms. Finally we grow three different white-flowering 'Elegantissima'; one of them has greyish foliage, the others have more green leaves. The first is the best and can be found in most nurseries. In one nursery at Boskoop, this variety has already been grown for 25 years as 'Alba'. This highly recommended form is possibly identical with the old 'Alba Pilosa'.

What is the difference between 'Spitfire' and the old 'Aurea'? In my opinion there is no difference at all, at least in the Dutch material.

In the genus *Erica* I can say that the old and long-cultivated *Erica carnea* 'Atrorubra' and 'Ruby Glow' are identical. 'King George' and 'Winter Beauty' are also identical in Holland; for practical reasons, we maintain the name 'Winter Beauty', and the name 'King George' is added as a synonym. It is much easier for our Boskoop merchants to sell 1,000 specimens called 'Winter Beauty' than 100 plants called 'King George'! The name of the plant is often of great importance, especially commercially. Also *E. carnea* 'Snow Queen' and 'Cecilia M. Beale' are mixed up in our country and it is very difficult to distinguish them.

Erica ciliaris 'Globosa' is also known in Holland as 'Norden', but this 'Globosa' is completely identical with 'Rotundiflora'. Our 'Stapehill' has purplish pink flowers

and light green foliage, and appears not to be the true one. In *Erica cinerea*, 'Alba' and 'Alba Minor' are mostly confused. 'C. D. Eason' is frequently grown; I found this variety in Holland under 10 different names. Our 'Pallida', a clear purple, rather hardy cultivar, appeared to be wrongly named, because the true one has pale purple flowers. This old variety has been renamed 'Pallas'. Even our 'Atrorubens' is not the true one. The plants which we grow under this name, and also as 'Rossabella' and 'Rosea', have carmine-rose flowers. The latter name is perhaps the true or in any case the best one.

'C. D. Eason' is also grown as 'Rossabella'. Our 'Coccinea' is mostly 'C. D. Eason', too. And what is 'Splendens'? I do not see any difference between 'C. D. Eason' and this cultivar. Nearly all the plants grown in our country as 'Frances' must be called 'C. G. Best'.

Erica darleyensis 'Böhlje' as grown in our country in very large quantities is completely identical with what you call *E. darleyensis* 'Darley Dale'. Our *Erica mackaiana* is all *E. m. 'Lawsoniana'*. They have been imported several times from different English nurserymen. Sometimes when we ordered *E. m. 'Lawsoniana'* we even received *E. mackaiana* 'Plena', but never the rich pink, typical, *E. mackaiana*.

Erica 'mediterranea' var. *hibernica* in the Netherlands is always 'Superba'. Of *Erica Tetralix* we grow three white-flowering cultivars, namely 'Alba Praecox', 'Alba' and 'Alba Mollis'. You frequently grow 'Alba Mollis', but we have this one under the name 'Alba'. This form of 'Alba' has normal hairs; our 'Alba Mollis' has distinct glands and bigger flowers, fading a little bit to pink. What is *E. T. 'Rubra'*? We don't believe we have the true one, since ours has light mauve-pink flowers.

We grow quite a lot of *Erica vagans* 'Grandiflora', but it is mostly called 'Rosea'.

In the *Erica x Watsonii* group we have the cultivars 'Dawn', 'H. Maxwell', 'F. White', 'Gwen' and 'Rachel', and one with large flowers, which looks to me to be the same as 'Dawn' in Wisley Gardens.

The assortment in England

After visits to Fisk's Nursery in Suffolk, and Treasures of

Tenbury in Worcester, where special attention was paid to *Clematis*, we travelled south to visit Maxwell and Beale near Wimborne. There I saw *Erica cinerea* 'Rosabella'; however, I am certain it is identical with 'C. D. Eason'. I have never seen 'Rosabella' again. Where does the material come from? Probably imported from Boskoop. The plants grown over here as 'C. D. Eason' are, in my opinion, 'Atrosanguinea (Smith's Variety)'; even 'Atrorubens' looks like 'Atrosanguinea', too.

At Hillier's nursery in Winchester I saw *Erica Tetralix* 'Alba'. This one has glandular hairs and is just the same plant which we grow as 'Alba Praecox'. *Erica mackiana* and *E. m.* 'Lawsoniana' were mixed up. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Penhale' in this nursery is just the same as our 'Brachysepala Densa' (or 'Darleyensis').

Then we made a call at Mr Ingwersen's nursery at East Grinstead. At his well-known heather nursery I found *E. cinerea* 'Coccinea', but I did not see any difference from 'C. D. Eason'. *E. cinerea* 'Baylay's Variety' looks the same as 'Eden Valley'. I recognised *E. x Watsonii* 'Dawn' as 'H. Maxwell', also *E. vagans* 'Lyonesse' as 'Alba'. Here *E. Tetralix* 'Alba' is similar to the Dutch one, but as at Hilliers *E. Tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' was recognised as 'Alba Praecox', and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Penhale' as 'Brachysepala Densa'. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Alba Pilosa' was all mixed up. The grey-leaved form looks exactly like our 'Elegantissima'. I did not know the other one. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Nana Compacta' looks the same as our 'Foxii Floribunda'. 'Foxii Nana' is, in my opinion, true to name.

In the garden of Mr and Mrs Letts I made a note of the following. *Erica Tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' is identical with our 'Alba'. *E. carnea* 'Ann Sparkes' is, *qua* foliage, identical with 'Vivellii Aurea'. This bronzy-leaved form came from Germany. The flowers are slightly more purple than in 'Vivellii'. In this place *C. vulgaris* 'Nana Compacta' is again exactly like our 'Foxii Floribunda'. I agree with their 'Foxii Nana'. *Erica ciliaris* 'Hybrida' is the same as our *E. x Watsonii* 'Dawn'.

At the nursery of G. Underwood and Son, I found *E. Tetralix* 'Alba', but I'm sure it is 'Alba Praecox'. To my mind *E. vagans* 'Grandiflora' is the cultivar 'Rubra'. No

difference was found between *E. ciliaris* 'Globosa' and 'Rotundiflora'. Is there really any difference between *E. cinerea* 'Hookstone White' and the old 'Alba Minor'? I do not believe so, for the true-named plants from England are grown side by side and they are just the same. *Calluna vulgaris* 'August Beauty' is not the true one. As everywhere, 'Spitfire' looks identical with 'Aurea'.

At Wisley Gardens I saw 'Else Frye' and 'Alba Plena'. Just as in Holland, I couldn't find any difference between those two varieties. Once again, *E. Tetralix* 'Alba Mollis' is the same as our 'Alba'. *E. x Watsonii* 'Dawn' has darker and bigger flowers than in the Dutch material. I recognised *C. vulgaris* 'Pyrenaica' as 'Pygmaea'.

The First Five Years

The Editor

I have recently spent an interesting evening looking through the Year Books since the Society's commencement seven years ago. We have not been alive long enough to write a history of ourselves, and all I can do is to take out snippets of what I read that impressed me or were a reminder of a happening.

At the end of the seventh book (1970) I realised more than ever before how fortunate we have been to have such a wonderful lot of contributors, how much we all owe them for their writings and especially my great debt to them for their ready support. Dr Samuel Johnson once wrote: 'No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money'. Had he lived in the 20th century he would have had to eat his words, as we, like dozens of other societies, would not be able to have a journal had we to pay for what was written.

1963. The inaugural meeting of the Society was on February 20th, 1963, when 'despite snowdrifts and winter despair' (as Mrs MacLeod reports) there was an attendance of over 40, with 15 letters of apology, all in answer to a letter from Sir John Charrington in the *R.H.S. Journal* the

previous August. Furthest to travel on that wintry afternoon was Mr F. J. Chapple, from the Isle of Man, who was elected President of the Society; most of us knew him as the author of *The Heather Garden*.

We had 32 pages of reading in the first Year Book published in the autumn of the same year, the first six pages being taken up with the Society's beginnings. It included two articles that I hope will be reprinted in future numbers: 'Cape Heaths' by the late Dr Ronald Gray, and 'Heathers in the Landscape' by the late W. L. Irvine, a landscape architect, who ended his article with wise words: 'First and last the heather landscape is smooth, rounded and continuous'. At the end of the book we had 'Questions and Answers', a selection of questions that had come to the Editor, a feature that might well be reintroduced. I blush now when I discover there were two questions from Mr David McClintock and two from Mrs Pamela Harper, unknown to me then but, since early days, regular contributors to this book, and from whom I have since learned such a lot!

1964. This year we mourned the death of Lt-Colonel Donald MacLeod, D.S.O., M.C., the first Treasurer of the Society. In a tribute to him Sir John Charrington wrote how he asked Colonel MacLeod to be the first Secretary of the Society, which he declined on the grounds of indifferent health, but suggested Mrs MacLeod be appointed Secretary in his place. Those of us who served with him, even for so short a time, experienced a real sense of loss in his passing.

The first 'Notes on British Heathers' by David McClintock appeared in this number and has continued every year; the one on p. 25 is the seventh. The Society is under a great obligation to Mr McClintock for these most informative and useful articles which have meant a great deal of research and time spent in the writing of them. It is my hope that it will be possible to issue them bound together, which would be invaluable in the future to all who write on heathers.

The first contribution from the United States appeared this year, from Mrs Esther Deutsch, of Long Island, whose death a short time later deprived the Society of a valued

member and the Editor of a delightful correspondent. The same number contains an enquiry from 'Mrs D. M. (Seattle)', whom we later came to know and appreciate as Mrs Metheny, and whom we were so glad to meet when she showed her lovely slides of heathers at the A.G.M. in 1969. In this number there is an article by her, most helpful to those of our members who give talks on heathers.

Fifteen members in different parts of the British Isles were asked for their twelve favourite varieties; twelve questionnaires were returned. Sixty-seven different varieties were chosen, but even then there were some notable absentees. *E. vagans* 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' headed the poll, with *Calluna vulg.* 'H. E. Beale' and *E. carnea* 'Springwood White' equal second.

In September the Society staged its first heath display at a R.H.S. Fortnightly Show. This effort 'manned' by Mrs MacLeod and members for two days has been continued since then, and attracted much attention, and is good for recruiting new members. Mrs MacLeod rightly calls it 'our best shop window'. How good it would be if it were possible to extend these displays to provincial shows.

1965. This year 'The Northern Group' of the Society was formed which is very active and has had a major part in the making of a first-class Heather Garden at Harlow Carr, Harrogate, the headquarters of The Northern Horticultural Society, working in conjunction with the Gardens Superintendent, Mr Geoffrey Smith, himself a member of this society.

In the Year Book it was announced that the membership was still below 500. Mrs Pamela Harper became Editor, and an Editorial Sub-Committee had been formed. The first report of Heather Trials at Wisley were published which are of interest to many. The value of the awards given at these trials, not only to heathers, is exercising the minds of many now, but without doubt they should be a guide to a first-class plant the knowledge of which is useful to grower and buyer alike.

We had the first contribution from New Zealand for the Year Book and 'Shrubs for the Heather Garden' from Mrs P. Harper, beside which I see I made a pencilled note:

'full of good practical sense'. Finally there was a short article from the President on '*Erica umbellata*'. I was glad to be reminded of this species again as I have never seen it doing so well, or flowering over such a long period, as it has been this year. It may be the dry spring suited it, though so disastrous to some species.

1966. Shortly before the Year Book was published we were grieved to hear of the death of a founder Vice-President, Dr Ronald Gray, who from our earliest days took a great interest in the Society. I shall always feel grateful to him for his friendship to me; on three successive years he wrote an article for the Year Book. His great delight was in the cultivation of South African Heaths, on which he was an authority, and I remember how impressed I was with his knowledge of them when he took me into his greenhouse where he had persuaded more than 60 species to flourish. So many felt they had lost a real friend when he left us.

In this year Sir John Charrington celebrated his 80th birthday. As Mrs MacLeod wrote in her report, '... pride of place must go to the luncheon at Wisley on 30th July, when a new "gold" *Calluna* raised by Mr J. W. Sparkes, of Beoley, was launched under the name "Sir John Charrington" in honour of the birthday'. A parent plant was given by Mr Sparkes to Sir John.

The Year Book contained six articles on different ways for propagating heathers, all most useful and practical. Mr Harold Copeland of Chatham, Massachusetts ('far out at sea on the elbow of Cape Cod, with the Atlantic Ocean bordering three sides of the town'), wrote about his garden. His most recent letter tells me he has over 300 varieties now, and many heather enthusiasts find it a good place to come to for correctly-named cuttings as Mr Copeland never charges for them. There was a most interesting article by Brigadier Weigall on 'The use of fertilisers on heathers' which, I know, caused the raising of a good many eyebrows. I wonder how many adopted his methods? Just this week (November 1970) I have heard from one who did, with great success.

1967. At the request of our Society this year the R.H.S. included special classes for heaths at a Spring Fortnightly

Show, and for heaths and heathers in midsummer. Mrs MacLeod reported: 'At these competitions and the Autumn Display, which for the third time won us a Silver Flora Medal, we noted that people show an increased interest in heathers'.

Mrs Pamela Harper saw the Year Book into the printers' hands and then followed her husband to America: a very great loss to us in Britain, but she still retains her interest in the Society, sending me an article for this publication every year, and, from what she writes in her letters to me, spreading the 'gospel' of heather growing in her area.

There are some most excellent articles in this number. It is difficult to extract paragraphs from any one of them without taking something from all, but here are some of the titles: 'Heaths and Heathers down under', an account of how the authors became interested in heathers, knowing little about them, and how they conducted their own experiments in soil, propagation, fertilisers, etc., keeping careful records all the time. Mr Geoffrey Smith, Superintendent of the Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate, makes out a good case for the improvement given to a heather garden by a companion planting of dwarf conifers, birch, maple and other suitable shrubs, and dwarf bulbs. There is an interesting account of another heather garden on chalk, and another one that is gale-swept and the problems its owner has to overcome. There is an article on the *E. mackaiana* country in Connemara, Ireland, which was almost a prelude to the Society's visit to Western Ireland in the following year.

Mr H. C. Prew writes with expert knowledge on the great use of magnesium sulphate in the growing of heathers; one sentence he wrote I have never forgotten, viz. 'The family Ericaceae is not so much a lime hater as an iron lover'. Breaking fresh ground for us was an instructive article 'Heathers in Flower Arrangement' by Miss F. Laugher.

This number was crammed with good things; Mrs MacLeod still has a few copies left, price 10/- each, post paid. For those who do not possess it, I recommend it.



Companions for Heathers

Mrs P. Harper, Maryland, U.S.A.

What is and what is not a suitable companion for heather depends not only on the soil, situation and size of the garden but, to a greater extent, on the proclivities of individual gardeners. If the sight of pelargoniums and similar exotics plunged amidst the heathers pleases you, go ahead . . . plant them . . . enjoy them . . . it is your garden and you have my blessing. But read no further, for we speak a different language.

Those still with me probably agree that flamboyance is out of place, simple flowers of subtle colouring making the most compatible consorts, with priority given to other members of the heath family. Here are a few suggestions. All the plants mentioned I have either grown myself or seen growing in heather gardens in England or the U.S.A.

Whether or no the large-flowered rhododendrons are suitable candidates is open to question, but *Rhododendron (Rhodora) canadensis*, a daintier twiggy shrub some 2-3 feet in height, so enchanted the poet Emerson that he extolled the loveliness of its rosy-purple flowers, borne on leafless branches in May (probably April in England) in a sonnet.

Iron hardy through bitter New England winters, its preferred habitat is the partially shaded slopes of moist hillsides or beside slow woodland streams. To compensate for England's greyer skies, put it in a sunnier place.

Provided only that the soil is cool and peaty the Bog Rosemary, *Andromeda polifolia*, is happy in full sun, though Linnaeus wrote that this plant is . . . 'always fixed on some little turfy hillock in the midst of the swamps, just as Andromeda herself was chained to a rock in the sea, which bathed her feet as the fresh water does the roots of this plant. As the distressed virgin cast down her blushing face, so does this rosy-coloured flower hang its head, growing paler and paler till it withers away.' The heath-like urns appear through May and June and the tiny lance-shaped leaves with margins rolled down, glossy above, white below, are evergreen. This is a very easy little shrub to

layer. My own plant never exceeded six inches in height but there are taller forms available.

Pieris make attractive shrubs for shadier sections of large heather gardens and none is lovelier than a good form of *P. forrestii*. The sweetly scented, lily-of-the-valley flowers hang in long sprays through April, but even more beautiful is the brilliant red new growth, though all too frequently destroyed in its moment of glory by an untimely frost. This grows to about eight feet. *P. japonica* 'Variegata' (sometimes still offered for sale under the earlier name *Andromeda*) is smaller and slower growing, somewhat rounded in shape, the evergreen leaves prettily variegated with pale cream. *Pieris* 'Pygmy' is the baby of the family, barely one foot in height when six years old. The leaves, pink when new then bright green, are little more than half an inch long.

Vaccinium corymbosum, the Swamp Blueberry, is attractive and worth a place as an ornamental, with fruit as a bonus. The small, white globular flowers have charm enough to earn a place for this shrub of moderate size, rarely exceeding five feet, but its merits do not end here, the leaves colouring brilliantly in autumn. For smaller spaces try the little Huckleberry, *Gaylussacia brachycera*, slow to establish but then spreading steadily beneath the ground. These two appreciate ample moisture and full sun but are tolerant of shade.

Enkianthus campanulatus also goes to rest in a blaze of glory, the dying leaves coloured a vivid scarlet-orange. Averaging six feet in height and of upright habit, it likes a little shade but will stand full sun if not too dry. Pendant daboecia-like bells swing from the branches in May and June, buff in colour veined with bronze.

That old-fashioned embrocation oil-of-wintergreen comes from the leaves of *Gaultheria procumbens*, rounded and glossy, red-tinted when new. Flowers of white or palest pink dot the three-inch mats of creeping stems, usually solitary, nodding from the leaf axils and followed in October by bright red berries.

The next two present a challenge, the first in growing it, the second in finding it.

So temperamental is the Trailing Azalea, *Loiseleuria procumbens*, that the staff of at least one nursery nickname

it Lousy Laura. The small leathery leaves are evergreen, shaped into a cushiony carpet, and with that most of us must rest content. Those with fingers so green they could make a chair leg take root may be rewarded with a sprinkling of tiny pink 'azaleas' in May and June. Scotland suits it better than England and the best chance of success seems to lie in a raised bed or well-drained slope at the north-facing end of a sandy, acid-soiled heath garden with shading shrubs behind.

Epigaea repens—May Flower or Trailing Arbutus—is much eulogised in American horticultural literature. Once common in the wild, it is now rather scarce, so imagine my delight at finding a sizeable clump in the woodland near our home. It grows on a steeply sloping, rocky bank of acid, sandy loam, facing north. The trees are deciduous so that sun and light are strong through winter and spring but much reduced thereafter. Here, about April, the fragrant five-lobed tubular flowers appear, pearly pink and clustered at the tips of hairy, trailing branches clad with leathery leaves, evergreen but weatherworn at this time of year. My favourite wildflower book, long out of print, says this shyest of sylvan flowers cannot be coaxed to take up residence in gardens and pines away when brought into contact with civilisation. This was unduly pessimistic and contemporary writers do not consider it difficult to establish except when large plants are dug from the wild. This is hardly to the plant's discredit and applies equally to large clumps of heather dug from Scottish moors. I have seen *Epigaea* growing happily at the shaded end of several heather gardens here, but I suspect that in England's equitable climate shade would be less important. Regard the search for this in English catalogues as truly a treasure hunt, or buy instead the very similar Japanese *E. asiatica*, which Hilliers list.

A few now for the drier, sunnier spots. *Spiraea bullata* grows quickly into a compact, rounded shrub with crinkled leaves and domes of rosy red flowers in late summer. It looks neater if allowed to grow no more than two feet high, clipped annually to maintain a shapely appearance. *Polygonum vaccinifolium* is the knotweed equivalent of *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White', going busily on its way at about the same speed and rooting as it goes. The edge of a

raised bed is an ideal place for this one and the spikes of bright red flower decking the evergreen mats can be enjoyed late into autumn.

The creeping thymes (*T. serpyllum*) can be grown in the forefront of heathers but are rather too prostrate and spreading to mix and mingle amongst them. *Thymus nitidus*, however, is shrubby in shape, approximately one foot high and a bit more broad. The strongly aromatic leaves are greyish and narrow and the flower spikes lilac. For anyone liking thyme and lemon stuffing with their roast duck but without space or inclination for a special herb garden, the common seasoning thyme, *T. vulgaris*, could well be fitted into a gap in the heather garden. It does need fairly frequent renewal, but then (though this be sacrilege) so do some of the heathers.

For the poorest, sandy soils in full sun or part shade try Bearberry or Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). It will not do well as a rule in rich or heavy soil. Mats of evergreen leaves follow the contours of the ground. Waxy bells of white blushed pink dot the clumps but the berries which follow tend to hide shyly beneath the leaves.

I like grey-foliaged plants with heathers. Of *Hebe pinguifolia* 'Pagei' I have written before. Most of the hebes (shrubby Veronicas) look well in heather beds and this is one of the best. *Senecio greyi* also comes from New Zealand, and though I was assured by a member there that this is not the same plant as *S. laxifolius*, the terms certainly seem to be used synonymously in the English nursery trade. The yellow ragwort flowers which deck the wide-spreading, silver-leaved branches are unexciting but do appear right through the summer. Under ideal conditions and left unpruned, this shrub can become four feet or so in height and straggle over a greater width. I like it best disciplined to two feet, but even so it is only suitable for moderately spacious quarters. It likes dry soil and sun and did well for me close to the trunk of a high-branched oak tree, a situation scorned by a great many other plants and barely tolerated by the heathers.

Finally, two I have never seen. *Daboezia*, we all know, used to be *Menziesia*. So did some at least of the *Phyllodoce* clan, these last being dear and dainty heath-like shrubs,

but oh! so hard to please. In their 1962 catalogue Hilliers of Winchester retain two *Menziesia* species, *M. cilicalyx* *lasiophylla* and *M. purpurea* respectively, described as having flowers resembling the daboecias but waxy in texture, the first purple shading to yellowish green and the second bright red. The descriptions intrigue me. Will someone please try them and tell me about them?



Past and Present

John P. Ardron, Sheffield

*'Disagreeable, disagreeable, disagreeable, disagreeable
was the first four months of the northern year. And in so
speaking I think I even flatter them.'*

This dreadful quotation is from the imposing tome *In a Yorkshire Garden* published in 1909. Poor Reginald Farrer had a jaundiced view of the Winter Aconite and had little enthusiasm for the Snowdrop, nor did he even mention the Winter Jasmine. It is odd that so prominent a plantsman had not secured *Erica carnea* to dress his garden with its irrepressible flowers during the first third of the year.

But five years later, in *The English Rock Garden*, he recognised

*'... the winter blooming tendencies of *Erica carnea* give it quite peculiar value, to reinforce the already sufficient value of its fine foliage and brilliant flowers. There are white forms and better forms and better forms of even the white, to say nothing of the fact that it grows in any soil.'*

On the same page he commends *Ereica* (the original spelling) *Tetralix*, *cinerea*, *ciliaris* and *Mackiana* as being of 'prime importance' for the rock garden.

It would be interesting to trace when and where the first heather gardens were planted. We know that James Smith and Sons, nurserymen of Darley Dale (established 1827), were early in the field and it is recorded that in 1852 they introduced *Erica cinerea* 'Atrosanguinea' and *E. c.* 'Coccinea'; and that Backhouse of York gave an impetus to *E. carnea* by introducing many new varieties towards the end of

last century. In 1905, Mark Fenwick planted a heather garden at Abbotswood, Glos., and in the same year Colonel Messel planted a stand of heathers at Nymans, Sussex. The R.H.S. gave formal recognition of the merits of heather by the F.C.C. award they made to *Calluna v. 'Cuprea'*, back in 1873.

There is a long and intriguing history of the expeditions of intrepid botanical collectors who have garnered, from the most remote parts of the world, more and more plants for introduction into cultivation. Many of their finds have enriched our gardens in great measure, but some, especially amongst the high alpine flora, have not been able to withstand our too-changeable climate. Indeed, many have had to be given refuge under glass.

Not so with our hardy heathers; they thrive in our temperate yet extremely variable weather because they are endemic to Europe and the British Isles. Although appreciated by relatively few discerning gardeners in the past, heathers are now being recognised as being of unique value because they contribute more to the whole-year-round-garden than any other genera which can be grown in the open ground. This is no overstatement; within the family of heathers we have members which will give us a long season of individual flowering, to cover all seasons and, usually, every month.

Extensive heather gardens are now to be seen at Windsor Great Park, Wisley, Ness, Edinburgh, and many other public and private gardens. Which brings us to Harlow Carr Gardens, Harrogate, where, as elsewhere reported, our Society in co-operation with The Northern Horticultural Society is seeking to grow for public inspection every variety of heather we can find. Not an easy task. Where can we find *E. cinerea 'Boothii'*, *E. australis 'Mount Stewart'* and 'Wishanger Pink'? All three were awarded the A.M. by R.H.S.; have they gone out of cultivation or do they masquerade under other names?

The latest development at Harlow Carr is that a large new area, somewhat apart from the main garden, is now set aside for use strictly as a heather trials garden. This will facilitate

*'Wishanger Pink': see pages 136-137, *R.H.S. Journal* for March 1969, article by C. D. Brickell and D. McClintock.—Ed.

the work of comparing varieties and eliminating the confusion of nomenclature, as explained in the 1970 Year Book. The four members who have been recording the progress of each variety have now been joined by Mrs Haley and Mrs Macaulay, and we take this opportunity of welcoming them and thanking the recording team for their painstaking long-term efforts. Meanwhile, the scenic planting of the landscaped heather garden has got off to a good start towards carrying out our hopes and intentions, resolved upon over four years ago.



Personal Names used for our Hardy Heathers

David McClintock, Platt, Kent

Who were Alport, Hammond, W. T. Rackliff, Serle (or Searle or Searl)? Most of us—all of us, surely—have an abiding interest in people, and with this goes curiosity why certain plants bear the names of certain people and who these people were. But to discover all the answers is not easy: who the four names belong to which I began with, is still quite unknown. So one of the objects of this list is to show where we have not got the answers, and hope that those who have will take the trouble to let us know.

It is frequently the greatest help in distinguishing cultivars to be definite about the origin of a plant, and this often includes why it was given a certain name. This is becoming an ever more complex task, and as the Heather Registration Authority we need such details. I have put in brackets the earliest date and source for the cultivars whose derivation I have failed to discover. But further particulars for some of the others could also well be added . . .

A compilation of this kind must of course owe much to others, most of them to be inferred from the text itself, but Mr P. S. Patrick, and Mr J. W. Sparkes have specially helped with the cultivars from their own nurseries, and Mr and Mrs Letts also saw the draft. Not everyone, however, replies to letters and, failing the chance of personal contact, one or two obvious sources remain untapped or unconfirmed.

Any list such as this shows the uncertainties of horticultural fame. However good a variety seems to be, it may soon be surpassed, may never have the recognition it deserves, or may prove to have some unsuspected defect, while others given almost chance names may achieve immortality. So this is no complete gallery in the hall of merit although it is nice to see so many leading heather people, past and

present, professional and amateur, in it. I hope some of the gaps may soon be filled.

Albrechtii (*Calluna*). (Germany, 1934.)

Mrs Alf (*Calluna*). Mrs A. W. Wilson of Dunfermline, its discoverer, c. 1935.

Alportii (*Calluna*). (England, pre-1864.)

Barnett Anley (*Calluna*). Brig. B. L. Anley, husband of Mrs Gwendolen Anley of Woking, d. before 1964. A seedling in her garden, pre-1960.

Sister Anne (*Calluna*). Miss Anne Moseley of N. Devon, discoverer in the Lizard district, c. 1929. She was a nurse, but 'Sister' was the appellation used by her own sister.

Miss Appleby (*Calluna*). Miss H. M. Appleby, now of Rowledge, Farnham, Surrey, discoverer in Radnor Forest, c. 1954.

C. J. Backhouse (*carnea*). (Backhouse of York, 1911)

James Backhouse (*carnea*). (Backhouse of York, 1911.)

Betty Baum (*Calluna*). (de Belder of Kalmthout, by 1962.)

Baylay's Variety (*cinerea*). Finder in 1940s, the late Mr J. W. Baylay of Solihull.

Cecilia M. Beale (*carnea*). Sister of H. E. Beale, 1927.

H. E. Beale (*Calluna*). Director of Maxwell and Beale, Broadstone, c. 1926.

Beleziae (*Calluna*). Mlle Marguerite Belèze, discoverer in 1874 in the Forêt de Rambouillet.

Ann Berry (*cinerea*). Finder on staff of Underwood Bros., Chobham, pre-1963.

Dainty Bess (*Calluna*). (American, by 1962.)

C. G. Best (*cinerea*). Finder, employee of Maxwell and Beale, by 1931.

Böhlje (*x darleyensis*). (On the Continent by 1962.)

Boothii (*cinerea*). J. G. Booth and Son, nurserymen, of Hamburg, 1905.

Boscawen's Variety (*canaliculata*). Canon A. T. Boscawen of Ludgvan Rectory, Cornwall (1862-1939).

Ingrid Bouter (*Calluna*). Sport from 'Tib' at C. Bouter, Boskoop, by 1969.

E. F. Brown (*Calluna*). American airman who found it in Germany, pre-1966.

Jack H. Brummage (*x darleyensis*). Nurseryman of Taverham, Norfolk, 1966.

William Buchanan (*Daboecia*). Plantsman of Bearsden, Glasgow, d. c. 1963.

Joyce Burfitt (*cinerea*). Now of Lymington, finder near Wareham, c. 1950.

Bury's Variety (*Tetralix*). (At Wisley, 1934 and 1937.)

Fred J. Chapple (*Calluna*). Seedling at Whaley Bridge, c. 1948. Author of *The Heather Garden*.

Carole Chapman (*Calluna*). Third child of Charlie Chapman of Birmingham, by 1966.

Janice Chapman (*Calluna*). Second child of Charlie Chapman of Birmingham, pre-1966.

Robert Chapman (*Calluna*). Eldest child of Charlie Chapman of Birmingham, pre-1962.

Charlotte ("*mediterranea*"). (Maxwell and Beale, 1935.)

Sir John Charrington (*Calluna*). Founder of the Heather Society. 1966.

Chittendenii (*vagans*). F. J. Chittenden (1873-1950), R.H.S. Editor, and Director of Wisley. 1934.

Christine (*Calluna*). Frl. C. Rijnbeek of Bremen, daughter of the introducer in 1960s.

Cindy (*cinerea*). The Letts's Collie dog, by 1966.

Clarae (*Arborea*). (1914, variety of *Pampanini*.)

Alan Coates (*carnea*). (Britain, pre-1947.)

Coillotii (*Ciliaris*). M. Coillot, finder, 1898.

Ada S. Collings (*carnea*). (C. E. J. Stubbington, St Albans, pre-1964.)

Fred Corston (*cinerea*). F. H. D. Corston, Director of Knap Hill Nursery, from 1968.

Crawfordii (*Mackaiana*). Dr F. C. Crawford (1851-1908), Edinburgh, finder, 1901.

Stephen Davis (*cinerea*). Son of P. G. Davis, nurseryman of Haslemere, 1969.

Dawn (*x Watsonii*). Niece of H. E. Beale, 1925.

Mrs Dill (*cinerea*). (Maxwell and Beale, 1931.)

Murielle Dobson (*Calluna*). Wife of finder, W. S. Dobson of Edinburgh, c. 1953.

Mrs Sam Doncaster (*carnea*). (Backhouse, 1911.)

Mrs S. Donaldson (*vagans*). (Wallace, 1931.)

Drummondii (*Daboezia*). (Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, 1896.)

Mrs Dunlop (*Calluna*). Mrs Dunlop of Reston, Berwickshire, 1968.

C. D. Eason (*cinerea*). Charles D. Eason (an Australian), employed by Maxwell and Beale, finder, by 1931.

David Eason (*Calluna*). Son of C. D. Eason, by 1948.

John Eason (*cinerea*). Finder, son of C. D. Eason, by 1933.

Elli (*arborea*). (Variety of *Pampanini*, 1914.)

Erikae (*Calluna*). Frau Erika Gräbner, *née* Stange (born 1875).

G. Ford (*cinerea*). (America, 1967.) Error for 'Mrs Ford'?

Mrs Ford (*cinerea*). (Britain, by 1947.)

Foxii (*Calluna*). (England, by 1867.)

Frances (*cinerea*). Maid to Mr and Mrs H. Maxwell, 1921.

Duncan Frazer (*cinerea*). A foreman at Waterers. Found in 1950s.

George Frazer (*Tetralix*). (America, by 1967.)

Else Frye (*Calluna*). Mrs E. Frye of Seattle, in whose garden the sport originated, c. 1940.

King George (*carnea*). King George V (1865-1936).

Mrs C. H. Gill (*ciliaris*). 'Of Thirsk', by 1927.

Mary Grace (*Tetralix*). Nobody—D. F. Maxwell's two favourite girls' names.

Archie Graham (*x darleyensis*). (Hilliers, some years before 1967.)

Graham's White (*Calluna*). Named after the discoverer in 1930s near Loch Fyne.

Ann Gray (*Calluna*). Nobody—seedling found between 'Sister Anne' and 'Mrs Ronald Gray', pre-1968.

Francis Gray (*Calluna*). (Ex Holland by 1964.)

Dr Ronald Gray (*Mackaiana*). Vice-President of the Heather Society (1880-1966).

Mrs Ronald Gray (*Calluna*). First wife of Dr Ronald Gray, finder in 1933.

Mrs R. Green (*Calluna*). Error in *R.H.S. Journal* 1968 for the last.

Gregor's Variety (*Calluna*). (By 1963.) Error for 'MacGregor's'? Gwen (*x Watsonii*). Niece of H. E. Beale, 1925.

Hamildon (*cinerea*). A friend of Miss Waterer of Penzance.

Hamiltonii (*Calluna*). (C. Dieck of Zöschen, Germany, 1885, 1889.)

J. H. Hamilton (*Calluna*). Director of Maxwell and Beale, pre-1932.

Hammondii (*Calluna*). (Britain, by 1850.)

Jim Hardy (*cinerea*). Employee of Knap Hill Nursery since 1934. Found in early 1950s.

Hayesensis (*Calluna*). Robert Hayes of Grasmere, c. 1900.

Helena (*arborea*). (Variety of *Pampanini*, 1914.)

Helma (*Tetralix*). Daughter of M. Zwijnenberg of Boskoop, by 1967.

Martha Hermann (*Calluna*). Employee of Mayfair Nurseries, New York, 1969.

E. Hoare (*Calluna*). Employee of Maxwell and Beale, 1948.

Diana Hornibrook (*vagans*). (Britain, by 1946.)

Hostii (*Calluna*). (At Hull, 1866.)

Michael Hugo (*cinerea*). (Knap Hill, late 1960's.) Younger son of Donald Waterer.

Jae (*Calluna*). Jessie, late wife of Fred. J. Chapple. Seedling 1950.

Jamesiana (*Andromeda x*). (Canada, 1954.)

Janet (*cinerea*). A Scottish friend of Miss Waterer, 1941.

Jennifer Anne (*carnea*). Mrs Geoffrey Yates of Nottingham, seedling in their garden in 1960s.

Arthur Johnson (*x darleyensis*). Horticultural journalist of North Wales (1873-1956), 1952.

A. T. Johnson (*Calluna*). Horticultural journalist of North Wales, c. 1960.

Johnson's Variety (*Calluna*). Horticultural journalist of North Wales, by 1935.

Juno (*Calluna*). Mrs June Kolaga, wife of the owner of the Mayfair Nurseries, New York, c. 1963.

Katinka (*cinerea*). No-one.

Thomas Kingscote (*carnea*). (Backhouse, 1911.)

Kuphaldtii (*Calluna*). Gartendirektor Kuphaldt of Berlin, finder on Oldenburg Moors, pre-1932.

Lawsoniana (*Mackaiana, Calluna*). Lawson and Sons, Nurserymen of Edinburgh, c. 1875.

John F. Letts (*Calluna*). Nurseryman of Windlesham, Surrey—seedling in his garden in 1960s.

Jean Liddle (*ciliaris*). Of Corfe Mullen, finder by 1950, friend of Miss J. Burfitt.

Lyle's Surprise (*Calluna*). R. E. Lyle of Alloa, finder, in Moray pre-1965.

Miss Lynne (*carnea*). (Ex Pinks Hill Nurseries, Guildford, in 1960s.)

(To be continued)

The Fall in an Eastern American Garden

Harold W. Copeland, Chatham, Mass., U.S.A.

It is our gorgeous autumn season now, beauty everywhere. The reds of the sumach, *Vaccinium* and *Euonymus alatus* and oaks, the yellows of the maples, the blue of the ocean, the various shades of green of pines, cedars, spruces, rhododendrons and sparkling hollies with their red berries. The wee hardy cyclamen are exquisite and here and there are clusters of late-flowering primulas.

In the heather garden are stray intriguing flowers of some cultivars of *ciliaris*, *Tetralix* and *cinerea*. Masses of *carnea* buds give promise of beauty to come in mid-winter. God is good.

A man comes each year from New Jersey and takes about 3,000 cuttings of our more unusual hollies, which he roots and grows for later sale. He also takes rare shrubs and heathers. A nurseryman in Connecticut comes twice a year for material he can't get elsewhere, especially loads of *Asarum europeum* (Snakeroot). Since we never charge for anything these men are for ever sending us new materials, like dwarf conifers and Exbury azaleas.

In another month we shall start putting the garden to bed. We put rotted pine needles around the small heathers, protecting the roots, and then cranberry vines (*Vaccinium macrocarpum*) over the entire area.

Correspondence with you and others in England developed the fact that over there you frowned on the use of pine

needles. After 13 years' steady use our plants are in thrifty condition except certain *E. carnea*. I am beginning to wonder if our naturally acid soil with the build-up of rotted pine needles is not too much of a good thing for some *carnea* cultivars, as there is a wide difference of growth amongst them. Certain ones are rampant, not only filling the area assigned to them but trespassing on others' space. These include 'King George', Springwood 'Pink' and 'White', 'Sherwoodi', 'Ruby Glow' and 'Winter Beauty'. Another group do splendidly and are less rampant, including 'Vivellii', 'Loughrigg', 'Pink Pearl', 'Startler', 'Gracilis', 'Carnea' and 'James Backhouse'. Still another group start off well but begin to die back and then expire in their fourth year; these are 'Rosea', 'Rosy Gem', 'Snow Queen', 'Queen Mary', 'March Seedling', 'Aurea', 'Pink Spangles' and 'Mrs Sam Doncaster'. I have just (November 1970) applied lime to all the plants in this last category, hoping to determine if this is the answer. Out of your longer and wider experience, have you any comment?

[I have never experienced it myself, but some members have told me they have had to apply lime to their acid soil, as Mr Copeland has done, to counteract too much acidity. I shall be grateful to have members' comments, so that I can forward them to Mr Copeland.—Ed.]

Do Prune Your Heathers

B. G. London, Taverham, Norfolk

At the Heather Competition held at the R.H.S. Hall in September, Mr N. Brummage's exhibit of straight spikes of *Calluna* 'H. E. Beale', many of which were one foot long, was awarded a First Prize, and was the cause of many questions from the viewers, most wishing to know how it was possible to grow such long straight spikes. I explained they were taken from young plants grown from cuttings and these were leading spikes. After the flowers died, or in March of the following year, the flowered spikes should be pruned off, then the next year long lateral spikes would

grow out from below the cut but would be curved at the base. I showed my own exhibit as an example.

Many said: 'But the new growth is coming at the tip of the spike'. This gave me opportunity to demonstrate that when the dead flowers fell off a foot of bare stem was left on which, if not cut off, the next year's new growth would produce only a few short flowering spikes, leaving the plant with a bare and lanky look. Some already had plants like this; I hope I convinced my enquirers that pruning must start with the very first flowering spike while the plants are young in order to maintain a display of fine long spikes.

The same applies, of course, to all heathers excepting perhaps *E. mediterranea* and some of the slower growing carneas, e.g. 'King George', 'Vivellii', 'Ruby Glow', and some others which only need occasional pruning to keep them in shape. However, the vigorous growing carneas, like 'Springwood White' and 'Pink', need pruning, otherwise they creep and layer themselves, the centre becoming bare stems.

For plants that have become untidy and lanky I suggest they be replaced with new plants, or prune the worst half of the plant nearly to the base one year to encourage new growth to break out, and the following year prune the other half.



Mid-Winter Folly

B. R. Malin, Worthing, Sussex

Mid-Winter Folly is an extension of Mid-Summer Madness, the latter being, as you may recall, the desire to construct at furious pace irregularly shaped raised beds disguised as rockeries on which to accommodate further ericaceous subjects. It is, of course, essential to garden on very alkaline soil as otherwise you will never have to suffer from the acid-starvation which brings about Mid-Summer Madness in the first place.

By the beginning of autumn the raised rockeries were completed and largely planted out with heaths but with a

few gaps where I had difficulty in obtaining the required cultivars. (Never give in to the urge to take substitutes.) Towards the end of September I placed a few handfuls of peat round each of the newly planted young plants for protection in the coming months, not realising at the time that simply to think about this step was a symptom of Mid-Winter Folly. I thought no more about it until one Sunday morning late in October I poked my head outside the back door in the early morning and felt the hint of slight frost. Naturally I hurried to the greenhouse, as I always do when I realise I have been caught out by the temperature, and on the way passed one of the raised rockeries. The peat which had been carefully placed round each young plant had of course been displaced, mainly by the birds, who love scratching it about, and suddenly I decided there and then, shivering in my shirtsleeves, that the bed would have to be re-mulched. There was a pile of peat adjacent and almost without thinking what my wife would say about my gardening in slippers (a favourite sin) I set to work. It didn't take more than half an hour, and my family evidently expected me to behave like this, so all was well at breakfast.

I did not have a recurrent attack until November when, on a crisp sunny morning, I was strolling round the garden and noticed some young half-hardy shrubs (*Hibiscus* and *Ceanothus*) had not been protected with the usual sacking round the roots. Fair enough, but when this job was done my thoughts turned to the heather beds again and I duly sacked the dwarf azaleas which grow amongst them, though it is doubtful if they need protecting in Sussex. All the time, as you will have guessed, I had really been thinking about the heathers, but if you thought I was going to say that I protected these beloved plants still further you are wrong. It is one of the subtleties of Mid-Winter Folly that I simply congratulated myself on having taken precautions for them earlier and, instead, thought about filling up one of the gaps with the not-quite-hardy *E. umbellata* (the Portuguese Heath).

I decided to visit Mr Hardwick's Nurseries at Newick on my way to a hockey match in that direction. They evidently have more snow than Worthing, for on looking at the nursery beds I could see no signs of foliage. Mr

Hardwick was very understanding and I think he quite enjoyed scraping the snow away with his bare hands and showing that (supposedly?) half-hardy Erica. The plants could not be taken away because the fablo pots were all frozen together, and possibly the roots might also have been frozen to the ground through the holes in the bottom of the pots, so arrangements were made to call again the next week when, although there was still snow about, the pots were free.

The plants were intended to be kept well sheltered until spring, but a few weeks later a spell of slightly warmer weather unfroze the soil and my next effort was to spend an hour or so setting these plants out, for which I suffered numb fingers. They, both plants and fingers, survived and I recommend *E. umbellata*, since it blooms profusely (cerise pink with chocolate antlers) in the heather close season in May and it really cannot be all that tender, south of London anyway.

Finally in September, when trimming some *C. v. 'Beoley Gold'*, a number of pieces were dibbled in. (I get better results this way than taking formal cuttings which are usually smothered with too much attention!) These I forgot to protect but, helped by the shelter of the surrounding rocks, they survived very well. The plants I had protected flourished also, but no better, and it is a sign of the stage to which my Mid-Winter Folly has advanced that not heeding this lesson I will even look forward to another year of Mid-Summer Madness followed by the inevitable Mid-Winter Folly. I wish you all the same.



Phytophthora cinnamomi

C. I. MacLeod, Horley, Surrey

Many letters have been received as a result of the short article in Bulletin No. 11 dealing with this fungus disease, commonly known as Erica Wilt.

Mr D. A. Richards of Cumberland, suspecting that he had it, sent specimens of affected plants to Dr R. M. Jackson,

Reader in Plant Microbiology at the University of Surrey in Guildford. The following are extracts from Dr Jackson's reply:

'The *Calluna* v. "Cuprea" and *C. v.* "F. J. Chapple" have now yielded cultures of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The diagnosis for these plants is therefore definite. I have not succeeded in isolating the fungus from the other plants but this does not necessarily prove they have not been infected. You undoubtedly have a difficult problem on your hands. Once *Phytophthora cinnamomi* is in the soil it forms resistant chlamydospores and oospores that can survive up to five years. We have no really effective fungicides that will be much help in getting rid of the fungus. Soil sterilisation even by heat or, less satisfactorily, with chemicals such as formaldehyde or Vapam is the only method of getting rid of the fungus.'

Mr Richards tells us further that the foci of the infection in those beds where it has been proved, are apparently deep in the ground. He bases this conclusion on the fact that after removing the dead callunas, he found many healthy seedlings which had obviously not got down to the seat of infection. Also, plants may have grown healthily for two years and then collapsed, presumably because they had penetrated to the diseased soil.

Dr Jackson's advice not to carry infected soil into uninfected areas comes too late for Mr Richards and probably others who have, in Mr Richards's words, 'moved tons of soil and stones around'.

'Have we some scientific genius who can exterminate *Phytophthora cinnamomi* and leave our precious Mycorrhiza unharmed ?' is Mr Richards's heartfelt cry.

It would appear that the disease did not occur or was not recognised in 1962, for according to Mr H. L. Nicholson's quotation from a book by T. R. Peace published that year, it did not affect hardy heaths in the U.K. but had been found in composts in greenhouses where Cape Heaths were grown. If the latter statement is correct, though the former has been proved wrong, we may have the reason, or one of them at least, why those of us who grow Cape Heaths lose so many of them, inexplicably.

(Photo: Fred J. Chapple)



Calluma 'Elsie Purnell'

Native



Daboecia cantabrica
(Connemara Heath)



Erica ciliaris (Dorset Heath)



Erica vagans (Cornish Heath)

Drawings by G. E. P. Wood

Heaths



Erica Tetralix
(Cross-leaved Heath)



Calluna vulgaris (Scotch Heather)



Heathers and Conifers on a gale-swept coast in the Isle of Man.

(Photo: Fred J. Chapple)

Questions and Answers

In Bulletin No. 10 a member asked: '... will heathers perform better on a soil low in humus, in fact on a soil that provides very little nutriment?'

In Bulletin 11 we asked (1) for members' experiences in growing on poor soils and, if stimulants were used, which did they find gave best results, and (2) had they suffered losses in plants last winter and the dry spring that followed it? I am grateful for the answers we received; they should be an encouragement to many.

Q.1. Your experience of success or failure on your type of soil and of what does it consist, and observations on other types of soil you know of. If you use stimulants, which gave the best results?

From Miss Ryan, Reigate, Surrey:

The principal content of my soil is sand, though in many places it has a good mixture of heavier soil (pH 6). I do better with ericas than with callunas, but have found that none do well in areas that are pure sand, and all must have not only peat to start them off but frequent liberal top-dressings of the same. Both callunas and ericas require a considerable amount of attention, especially watering for the first two years.

Two years ago I deliberately experimented with powdered seaweed. In the early spring I put a sprinkling round a number of plants of both ericas and callunas. By mid-summer it was quite evident that all the plants that had had it were doing considerably better than those without. So an application in the spring to all my plants has now become routine.

From Mr A. W. Jones, Taplow, Bucks.:

Taplow lies at a point where the chalk hills of the Chilterns meet the sand and gravel of the Thames valley. It is a wooded area and rhododendrons do well. I am not sure if my own subsoil is chalk or sand, but when I began my heather garden I was faced with clay of unknown origin which had

been spread on the site by the builder. I mixed this soil with a compost heap, which I estimate had been made 25-30 years earlier, and rhododendron sedge peat of guaranteed pH, and built the beds up six to nine inches above the surrounding level.

The plants [Mr Jones lists 20 varieties he grows] are given one dose of Sequestrene each year, and the beds are dressed to between one- and two-inch depth with Somerset sedge peat. I occasionally water with a solution of Epsom Salts as our tap-water is very hard; I always water liberally during periods of drought. I find a dusting of weathered soot is of value, especially to *E. carnea* 'Eileen Porter', at about six-weekly intervals during the growing period. I have once used a light dressing of powdered seaweed, but have not continued with it.

In my mother's Somerset garden, where the soil is alkaline, a raised bed was built with peat blocks and filled with a mixture of clay soil, sedge peat and sharp sand. All the plants are healthy and are blooming well.

From Mrs C. M. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire:

The soil in this district is very sandy, with subsoil of pure sand with seams of ironstone in it. The natural vegetation is of birch woods and heather mainly *Calluna*, also some *cinerea* and *Tetralix*, the latter growing not only in wet places but also on dry areas among the *Calluna*.

I started growing heathers more than 20 years ago when I noticed wild seedlings growing on a sandy bank in the garden. This bank had been a problem as it was too dry for ordinary rock plants. Not knowing anything about varieties, or even species, I planted it with a mixture of heathers from a local nursery, laying flat stones around the plants to prevent the soil being washed down in wet weather. This bank is now covered with large and luxuriant heathers, a cause of wonder and admiration to all who see it. Since then I have read Mr Chapple's book, and anything else I could find, and have planted heathers all over the garden, but none are as successful as those on the hot dry bank.

Regarding heather growing in pure sand, a sand quarry was started nearby about 10 years ago. The workings left banks of clean sand which became covered with birch and

heather (*Calluna*), the plants growing roots 18 inches or more in length, which could easily be lifted by hand. The differing shades and habits of growth were amazing, some plants being dwarf, others growing tall and bushy. This part has now been levelled, but new sandbanks are forming which we hope will also become heather 'gardens'.

I feel sure that heathers bloom best where they are grown 'hard' and on poor soil.

From Mrs C. Richards, Church Stretton, Shropshire:

In my case I am sure that total situation is a far more significant factor than soil composition alone. Our cottage stands 1,100 feet above sea level, and I have more or less carved or coaxed a garden out of steep and open hillside, which above yields entirely to bracken. The soil is thus thin, poor and acid; water conservation is a problem at times, and drought has undoubtedly caused me a few losses in first season plants, though none amongst mature plants.

I have never used any nutrient in my heather garden, but when planting have always forked into the soil vast quantities of whatever cost-free humus lay most conveniently to hand—'convenience' being a relative term. . . . For the first three or four years I plundered (but latterly with the Lord of the Manor's permission) a wild heather-clad plateau for blocks of root-entangled peat, which I crumbled; for the next two or three years I carted leafmould from a bluebell wood (which we then owned but I still felt guilty); and for the last few years I've taken the easiest way out of all—I simply climb up the hill behind the house and fill sack after sack with, so to speak, the accumulated droppings of bracken. I've never heard this recommended, and I don't know if the pundits would approve the practice; but anyone with shoulder-high bracken practically knocking at the back door should certainly give it a try!

From Mr B. G. London, Taverham, Norfolk:

Now that I have sandy soil I think one cannot go wrong if a little peat is added to give the roots a start. For no apparent reason I have lost one *E. carnea* 'Ruby Glow' and two *Calluna* 'Torulosa', though the latter may have caught a drift of weedkiller as two *C. v.* 'County Wicklow' also looked sick for a time.

When on the chalk of the Chilterns at High Wycombe my first plantings of *carnea* and *x darleyensis* were in chalk with a couple of handfuls of peat mixed in; they suffered from chlorosis though it did not stop them flowering or layering themselves. 'Springwood White' had yellow foliage, so much so that Mr Letts remarked: 'Well, you do not need 'Aurea'.' Later on I planted in pockets of sandy soil from Bagshot Heath and the plants grew better, though when the roots reached chalk *E. vagans* suffered from chlorosis but after three years turned green again. *Calluna*, *Tetralix* and hybrids were not affected in flower or foliage even when their roots had embedded themselves in the chalk.

I never use any fertiliser, though I have noticed after a heath fire *cinerea* seedlings acquire glossier foliage and longer flower spikes for a time, so perhaps they relish a little potash.

From Mr D. A. Richards, Eskdale, Cumberland:

My soil, on a granite mountain, is natural for heathers but there were none when I started. There was sufficient soil to support a jungle that stifled any heathers. As soon as the competition is removed they thrive.

Heathers are the only plants I grow that receive no nutriment of any kind. Nurserymen and others frequently claim to grow bigger plants with fertiliser but it is questionable whether they are better. Speaking as a chemist, the fertilisers that are generally accepted by growers, both professional and amateur, contain so little of anything significant that they can at least do little damage.

From Miss C. J. Elliott, Rostrevor, Co. Down, N. Ireland:

Heathers do extremely well here on a slope facing south and west; drainage is so good that nutrients are leached from the soil. To counter this, turves are placed in the bottom of the planting holes, and peat and old rotted farmyard manure is used at planting time. Plants flourish and seed themselves all over the place.

In Co. Kerry, S. Ireland, I have seen splendid heather plants growing on a clay bank. In a nursery I visit the soil is called locally 'rotted granite'; plants, grown on sloping ground, are the finest I have ever seen. Well-rotted manure

is used at planting time, but not at all afterwards; the root system is larger than the growth above ground by a big margin.

From Mr P. Bessent, Eltham, London, S.E.:

This garden has been cultivated for over 40 years. It has a light gravelly soil with its quota of pebbles. I have grown heathers for over 20 years and had not had many failures except from old age. Last autumn and this spring I planted 64 small plants from a nursery; three *Callunas* and one *cinerea* failed to grow. I had to water them occasionally through the drought with our hard tap-water but they have grown on well. No peat or fertiliser has been used. When planting, rotted grass is well mixed with the soil in the hole, and more is put round the ball of roots. Rotted grass is also used as a mulch.

Mr P. Dawson, of Blackburn, Lancs., writes:

Originally my type of soil was of a heavy clay nature. I added large quantities of peat, river sand and leaf soil and then planted my heathers.

[Here follows a list of eight species, 58 plants in all, all of which grew successfully except two *E. carnea* 'Eileen Porter' and one *cinerea* 'Golden Drop', which died during the winter.]

In a second garden the soil was of a light sandy nature, near Ambleside, Westmorland. Here there were no losses.

Mr Dawson uses 'Maxicrop', soluble seaweed, but no other nutrient. The only other loss was of four carneas and one *cinerea*, and Mr Dawson suspects *Erica* Wilt.

Q.2. Did you suffer any losses after the last long-protracted winter and the dry spring that followed it? It has been reported that *E. vagans* suffered very badly in many parts of the country.

From Miss Ryan, Reigate, Surrey:

E. vagans has come through 1970 better with me than most other species. I have not lost many plants as we had no watering restrictions and a sprinkler was kept going con-

tinuously. The older plants suffered most and I lost one or two *E. carnea* and several *E. Tetralix*.

From Sir John Charrington, Crockham Hill, Kent:

I have had the strange experience, not with one vagans variety, but with four or five, of bloom appearing on the north side of the group a long time before that on the south. The beds are all in full sunshine and the symptom has not occurred with other species.

From Mrs MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire:

E. vagans losses: My plants seem to recover as a rule, shoots breaking out from the base of the stem. In a long border facing north, plants were badly damaged in 1963, less in 1969, except where the sun caught them at mid-day. [Mrs MacIntyre reports other species being badly affected in other winters, 'mostly those which are touched by mid-day sunshine and are in sheltered places'.]

From Mrs Richards, Church Stretton, Shropshire:

So far as I can remember I have never lost a single plant of *E. vagans*. Last year I gave up for lost (they didn't quite die) some *Tetralix* which had been flattened by several feet of solidly compacted snow for about ten weeks, and I carried out several other mercy killings. None were necessary this year, though the garden has been less colourful than usual and mocked conventional calendars more waywardly than ever.

From Mr D. A. Richards, Eskdale, Cumberland:

The winter was bad here, the drought the worst in living memory. I lost no *E. vagans*, and other heathers only in shallow soil on bare rock, but when the rains came in July losses were very heavy. The soil became much warmer than usual, then heavy rain caused streams of surface water. Along these streams, which were probably only in existence for a few hours, plants sickened and died, usually in about a fortnight. It all added up to a fungus, water-borne, and now the experts put the label *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. [See Bulletin 11, pages 6-7.—Ed.] Among the casualties were Callunas, especially colour foliage and hirsuta types; *E.*

arborea, one plant only, now recovering; *E. Tetralix*, mostly young plants moved this year; *E. cinerea*, old and young; Daboerias, including many new hybrids of which some may recover. Plants that were not affected include *E. ciliaris*; *E. vagans*; *E. mediterranea* 'Hibernica'; *E. carnea*; *E. terminalis*. This may be they were not on infected ground, though I think some *E. ciliaris* were right in the 'line of fire'.

From Miss C. J. Elliott, Co. Down, N. Ireland:

We do not have much frost here, and little snow. Although we had the driest summer I can remember in this district (we were not allowed to water the garden) no losses were suffered in the heather garden, in heathers or shrubs. *E. vagans* did extremely well.

From Mr P. Bessent, Eltham, London:

I have established plants of *E. vagans* 'Lyonesse', 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' and 'St Keverne'. This spring some branches of an old plant of 'Mrs Maxwell' died back; these were cut out and the rest has grown on and flowered. The other varieties are quite vigorous. Several seedlings found close to 'Lyonesse' have white flowers suffused with lilac.

From H. L. Nicholson, Dorking:

A fascinating book, *Gardening on Sand*, published by W. H. and L. Collingridge Ltd, has been written by Christine Kelway and should be helpful.

I found last September at a place called Goudplaat near Goes in South Beveland, Netherlands, that our Dutch friends in the State Forest Service had planted oak, sycamore, elm, alder and mixed shrubs in pure white sand with no humus content, being granitic in origin. I took a picture of a young *Quercus robur* (*pedunculata*) 'Common Oak' really flourishing, but owing to the whiteness of the sand my slide was over-exposed and no good for reproduction. Somehow I feel that being so close to the sea there must be some filtration underground and that there may be some useful trace elements creeping about under the roots. After all, seaweed has its uses both for man and plants. Is there some connection here? I am just amazed to see these Dutch trees growing so well on virtually nothing.

Report on Wisley Heather Trials 1970

The following extracts from Wisley Trial Reports are reproduced by kind permission of the Council of the Royal Horticultural Society. The trials were inspected in June and August, and the awards given were: First Class Certificate, F.C.C.; Award of Merit, A.M.; Highly Commended, H.C.

CALLUNA VULGARIS

As a summer foliage plant

CAROLE CHAPMAN. A.M. (Raised and introduced by Mr J. W. Sparkes, Beoley, Worcs.) Plant 12-14 in. high, 15 in. spread, compact, vigorous, foliage yellow at top of shoots, green at base. Flowers single white.

GOLDEN CARPET. H.C. (Raised and sent by Mr John F. Letts, Windlesham, Surrey.) Plant 4-5 in. high, 24 in. spread, very prostrate, vigorous. Foliage cream, tipped golden yellow, flecked with orange and red in winter.

RANNOCH. A.M. (Raised and sent by Mr Archibald Allan, Strathblane, Scotland.) Plant 10-12 in. high, spread 14-17 in., erect, vigorous, foliage bright green, flushed red at tips. Flowers purple.

As a summer flowering and foliage plant

SIR JOHN CHARRINGTON. A.M. (Raised and sent by Mr J. W. Sparkes, Beoley, Worcs.) Plant 10-15 in. high, spread 22-24 in., very vigorous. Foliage golden-yellow, tinged scarlet and green on upper surfaces. Flowers single, deep purple.

BLAZEAWAY. H.C. (Raised and introduced by Mr J. W. Sparkes.) Plant 12-15 in, high, spread 22-24 in., vigorous. Foliage cream, changing to golden-yellow. Flowers mauve. We already know this lovely foliage plant which turns red in the winter.

As a summer flowering plant

CRAMOND. A.M. (Raised and introduced by Dr and Mrs Simson Hall, Barnton, Edinburgh.) Plant 14-15 in. high, with a spread of 2½-3 ft, very vigorous. Foliage very dark green. Flowers a purple shade, fading almost to white on some sprays.

RADNOR. H.C. (Raised by Miss Appleby; sent by Mr John F. Letts.) Plant 10 in. high, spread 18 in., very compact, vigorous. Foliage bright dark green. Flowers double, pink, on stems 7-11 in. long.

SPRING CREAM. H.C. (Raised and sent by Mr J. W. Sparkes.) Plant 16-20 in. high, 20-24 in. spread, very vigorous. Foliage dark green. Flowers single, white.

ERICA VAGANS

MRS D. F. MAXWELL. F.C.C. (Raised by Maxwell and Beale, Broadstone, Dorset; sent to the Trials by a number of growers.) This old favourite has now received the highest award.

ERICA CINEREA

CAIRN VALLEY. A.M. (Raised by J. Wilson; introduced and sent by Messrs Oliver and Hunter, Moniaive, Dumfries-shire, Scotland.) Plant 8 in. high with a spread of 16-18 in., compact, vigorous; foliage dark green. Flowers single, red-purple.

FIDDLER'S GOLD. A.M. (Sent by the Liverpool University Botanic Garden, Ness, Wirral, Cheshire.) Plant 9-10 in. high, spread 10-13 in. Foliage light green, younger shoots green flushed yellow and red. Flowers reddish-purple, fading to paler colour.

PINK FOAM. A.M. (Raised and sent by Mr John F. Letts, Windlesham.) Plant 12 in. high, 17 in. spread, compact, vigorous. Foliage dark green. Flowers single, violet.

PLUMMER'S SEEDLING. A.M. (Raised by J. E. B. Plummer; sent by Liverpool University Botanic Garden.) Plant 10-12 in. high, spread 14-16 in., slightly spreading, vigorous. Flowers single reddish-purple.

*ERICA × DARLEYENSIS**As a summer foliage plant*

JACK H. BRUMMAGE. A.M. (Raised and introduced by Mr J. H. Brummage, Taverham, Norwich, Norfolk.) Plant 6 in. high, spread 11-13 in., compact forming neat tussocks, vigorous; foliage light green, young shoots golden-yellow, green at tips, with bright red stems. Flowers red-purple, single.

CULTIVARS OF DABOECIA

PRAEGERAE. A.M. (Sent by Mr W. Moss, Afonwen, near Mold, Flintshire, and Messrs L. R. Russell Ltd, Windle-sham, Surrey.) Plant 12 in. high, 24 in. spread, compact, spreading, vigorous. Foliage bright green. Flowers R.H.S. Colour Chart, Red-Purple Group 66C flushed and with touches of Red-Purple Group 67B. Buds Red-Purple Group 60A. Flowering from May 28th, 1970. [The full official colour description is given for this plant as, in my ignorance, I should have said that plants I have grown had coral flowers.
—Ed.]

PURPUREA. A.M. (Sent by Messrs G. Underwood and Sons, Hookstone Green Nurseries, Woking, Surrey.) Plant 12-15 in. high with spread of 22-23 in., vigorous. Foliage bright dark green. Flowers $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. long, red-purple; beds deep purple. Flowering from June 1st, 1970.



The heaths we grow today are as fresh as the breezy delights of their own mist-swept moorlands as if they had never known the softening influences of a cultural life. They are the virgin gold of nature's own mint, and so devoutly do they cling to their ancestral conservation that the diversions of a cocktail age have no attractions for them. In the garden their racial traditions have never shown a lapse.

A. T. Johnson, 'Hardy Heaths'.

The dyes used in Europe from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century had consisted principally of blue indigo, a vegetable dye; red kermes, an insect dye, and red madder, a vegetable dye; weld yellow from wild mignonette, and a variety of other vegetable yellows from poplar, willow, birch and heather.

From 'The Work of William Morris' by Paul Thompson.



Very many people do not know how happy these heathers are as garden plants, and how well they mark the seasons for the most part at a time when people go into the country; . . . we cultivate nothing prettier.

Wm. Robinson in 'The English Flower Garden'.



Through the sunny garden
The humming bees are still,
The fir climbs the heather,
The heather climbs the hill.

Mary E. Coleridge.



I feel such a deep debt of gratitude to these (heather) plants for having served me so unfailingly for over half a century that anything that can be done to promote their welfare will be no more than common justice.

A. T. Johnson, 'Hardy Heaths', 1956.



Where the peewit wheels and dips
On heights of bracken and ling,
And Earth, unto her leaflet tips
Tingles with the Spring.

Sir Wm. Watson, 'Ode to May'.

Recent Papers on Heathers— 1970

D. McClintock

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 BEVIN, MRS E., Colehurst Farm, Stretton-u-Fosse, Rugby, Warks.
 BODENHAM, H. R., 101 Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford, Brierley Hill, Staffs.
 CASTELLAN, MRS C., The Spinney, Bower Lane, Etching Hill, Rugeley, Staffs.
 CHALLENOR, T. A., New Leys, High Ash Farm, Meriden, nr Coventry, Warks.
 CLARK, P. W., The Haven, 36 Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, nr Stourbridge, Worcs.
 COOPER, B. H., 7 Corinne Close, Rednall, Birmingham.
 COOPER, K. V., Abbeywood House, Newstead Abbey Park, Linby, Nottingham.
 COUGHLIN, MRS R., 17 Alvechurch Highway, Lydiate Ash, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 †COX, D. C., 125 Central Avenue, Syston, Leicester (Goscote Nurseries, Ragdale, Melton Mowbray).
 CRAWFORD, MISS E., 496 Groveley Lane, Rednal, Birmingham.
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 EDWARDS, MRS M., Ashlands, Stoneleigh Road, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, Warks.
 ELWIN, R. C., Two Ways, 12 The Lawns, Whatton-in-the-Vale, Notts.
 FINDLAY, A. R., 32 Lichfield Road, Coleshill, Birmingham.
 FEARSON, W. D., 268 Holbrook Lane, Coventry, Warks.
 GIBBON, MR and MRS J. W., 59 Loxley Road, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8PH.
 HANSON, F. D., Crossways, 43 Wellington Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 HEADLEY, W. H., 43 Craighill Road, Knighton, Leicester.
 HEATH, MR and MRS J., 219 St Bernards Road, Olton, Solihull, Warks.
 HORSLEY, N., 12 Perlethorpe Avenue, Mansfield, Notts.
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 JAMES, T. B., 4 Hetherington Close, Kempsey, Worcs.
 JONES, H. R. W., 11 Scott Road, Walsall, S. Staffs.
 KENDALL, P. J., 45 Halesowen Road, Halesowen, Worcs.
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 *LAW, R., Meadows, Draycote, nr Rugby, Warks.
 LEAD, W. L., 22 Imperial Avenue, Gedling, Notts.
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 LUNN, M. H., 46 Redland Grove, Carlton, Nottingham.
 †MCLELLAND, MR and MRS, 238 Chester Road, Streetly, nr Sutton Coldfield, Warks.
 MARTIN, G. W., 42 Clarence Road, Chilwell, Beeston, Notts., NG9 5HY.
 MARTIN, J. E., Elder Tree Lane, Ashley, nr Market Drayton, Shropshire.
 MILLIGAN, J. H., 50 Tennyson Avenue, Rugby, Warks.
 NORTHRIDGE, W. H., New Lodge, Anslow, nr Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.
 OAKMAN, C. W., 24 Yelverton Avenue, Evington, Leicester, LE5 6XR.
 PERKS, H. S., 15 Leonard Road, Wollaston, Stourbridge, Worcs.
 PRINGLE, W. H., 56 Littleheath Lane, Lickey End, Bromsgrove, Worcs.
 QUAYLE, S. K., Loen, Bewdley, Worcs.
 RADLEY, A. D., 20 Long Close, West Hagley, Stourbridge, Worcs.
 RICHARDS, MRS C., Dryhill, Ragdon, Church Stretton, Salop.
 ROBERTS, MRS E. S., Glenhurst, 121 Hadley Park Road, Leegomery, Wellington, Shropshire.
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 SALTER, K. R., 9 Emerson Road, Harborne, Warks., B17 9LT.
 SEGGIE, T. P., 98 Cannon Park Road, Coventry.
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 TURNER, MR and MRS A. S., 167 Cole Valley Road, Birmingham 28.
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 BROWN, E. C., 52 Gatehill Road, Northwood, Middx.
 BROWNE, MRS H. H. R., Gordonbush House, Egypt Lane, Farnham Common, Bucks.
 †BRUMMAGE, NEIL H., Heathwoods Nursery, Fakenham Road, Taverham, Norwich, NOR 53X.
 BUCKMASTER, A., 3 Rothschild Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
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 CHEASON, D. M., 4 Primrose Lane, Waterbeach, Cambs.
 CHITSON, MR & MRS R. C., 54 Epping Road, Toothill, Ongar, Essex.
 CHUBB, MRS G. M., 242 Blind Lane, Flackwell Heath, High Wycombe, Bucks.
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 CONSTABLE, J. L., Mallard, Ducks Hill Road, Northwood, Middx.
 COWIE, A. T., 6 Maiden Erlegh Drive, Earley, Reading, Berks.
 CRANE, MRS H. H., Highmead, Cheney Street, Eastcote, Pinner, Middx.
 CRAWFORD, MRS B., 19 Greenways, Abbots Langley, Herts.
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 DAVISON, J. G., Church Field, Fawley, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon.
 DICKINS, F. E. R., Copperfields, Silchester Road, Silchester, Reading, Berks.
 DISS, MRS H. M., 500 Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.
 DODGSON, MRS F. W., Kaikoura, 127 Heath Park Road, Gidea Park, Essex.
 DORN, A. J., Roughwood, Red Copse Lane, Boars Hill, Oxford.
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 DRING, S. J., Beacon Ridge, 24 Beacon Lane, Little Bealings, Woodbridge, Suffolk.
 DUNCAN, A. MCK., Windy Ridge, 32 Parsons Heath, Colchester, Essex.
 FERGUSON, H. McL., 4 Mackerel Hill, Royston, Herts.
 FINCH, MR and MRS J. E., The Barn, Wargrave Road, Twyford, Berks.
 FINDLAY, T. H., Director, The Gardens, The Great Park, Windsor, Berks.
 FLICK, L. P., 109 Cranborne Waye, Hayes, Middx.
 FOX, MR and MRS R. J., Candella, Stoke Road, Poringland, Norwich, NOR 42W.
 FRYE, M. G., The Willows, Poors Lane, Daws Heath, Thundersley, Essex.
 GILES, MRS K. M., 5 Kitsbury Terrace, Berkhamsted, Herts.
 GILMOUR, J., Director, The University Botanic Garden, Cambridge.
 GODDEN, B. A., 159 Putnoe Street, Putnoe, Bedford.
 GOLLER, A. E., 2 Palmers Road, Borehamwood, Herts.
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 HOWES, MRS V., Green How, Folgate Lane, Old Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk.
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 INWOOD, MRS G. I., 88 Alicia Gardens, Kenton, Harrow, Middx.
 JOHNSON, MRS J., 5 East Way, Holtspur, Beaconsfield, Bucks.

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 LOWEN, MRS J. E., 40 Priory Road, Bicknacre, Chelmsford, Essex.
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 ROBINSON, MRS H. F., Hyde Hall, Rettendon, Chelmsford, Essex.
 ROSE, D. J. T., 7 Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford, Berks.
 ROSS-LEWIN, MAJOR F. H. W., The White House, St Oaves, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
 SANDROCK, F. E., MeadowSweet, Halstead Road, Kirby le Soken, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex.
 SHEPPARD, MRS J. B., 24 South Approach, Moor Park, Northwood, Middx.
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 WILLIAMS, R. E., 15 Richmond Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 2DX.
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 ATKINS, C. H., Ridge View, 65a Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking, Surrey.
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 BEAMAN, MRS C. G., 43 Hall Lane, London, N.W.4.
 BENN, THE HON. LADY, High Field, Pastens Road, Limpsfield, Oxted, Surrey.
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 †BICKNELL, D. E., Pinks Hill Nurseries, Pinks Hill, Wood Street, Guildford.
 BILLINGTON, W. H., Hazelgen, Russells Crescent, Horley, Surrey.
 BOLT, MR and MRS H. W., Kyrenia Cottage, 36 Sheephouse, Farnham, Surrey.
 BONNEY, MR and MRS S. J., 12 Old Oak Avenue, Chipstead, Coulsdon, CR33 PG.
 *BOWERMAN, MR & MRS A. H., Champs Hill, Coldwaltham, Pulborough, Sussex.
 BOXALL, MR and MRS L., Gilridge, Sandy Lane, Kingswood, Surrey.
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BRAY, B., 5 Cardinal Avenue, Morden, Surrey.
 BRISTOWE, MRS E., Old Field, Sea Road, Little Common, Sussex.
 BROWN, MRS C. R., Penn Cottage, 1 Downs Road, Seaford, Sussex.
 BUCKLEY, MAJOR R. M., Woodlands, Greenhill Road, Otford, Kent.
 BURKE, DR S. A., Orchard Cottage, Manor House Lane, Effingham, Leatherhead, Surrey.
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 CHARRINGTON, MRS N. D., Dye House, Thursley, Godalming, Surrey.
 CHURCHILL, P. J., 24 Huntingdon Gardens, Worcester Park, Surrey.
 CLAYTON, I., Dunedin, 70 Keymer Road, Hassocks, Sussex.
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 DEAVES, C. W., The Warren, Compton Way, Moor Park, Farnham, Surrey.
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 FALCONER, B. J., Merristwood, 409 Woodham Lane, Woodham, Weybridge, Surrey.
 FARUQI, G. A., 49 Roehampton Lane, London, S.W.15.
 FILMORE, MISS E. E., Coolmoyne, 5 Copsewood Way, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent.
 FOREMAN, B., 11 Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, Surrey.
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 FRYER, MISS B. FIELD, Collington Lodge, Collington Grove, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.
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 GODBOLT, MRS E., Altadena, Southview Road, Crowborough, Sussex.
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 *GRAY, MRS RONALD, Southcote, Hindhead, Surrey.
 *HALE, H., Ashgarth, Hill Road, Haslemere, Surrey.
 †HARDWICK, R. E., The Nurseries, Newick, Sussex.
 HARRISON, MRS O. B., 23 Woodville Gardens, Ealing, London, W.5.
 HICKS, DR A. R. H., 106 Balcombe Road, Horley, Surrey.
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 HOLMES, MISS J., Iron Latch, The Great Quarry, Guildford, Surrey.
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 KERRICH, G. J., Heath Crest, Westcott, Dorking, Surrey.
 KIMBER, MRS P., Sandways, Upper Bourne Lane, Boundstone, Farnham, Surrey.
 KING, MRS E., Spindlewood, Glebe Lane, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey.
 KIRK, T. S., 17 Lathom Road, East Ham, London, E.6.
 KITCHEN, MRS F. B., Northdown, Grassy Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent.
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MACLEOD, MRS V., 12 Lower Sloane Street, S.W.1.

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MOORMAN, G. F., Redtiles, West Barnham, nr Bognor Regis, Sussex.

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PENRITH, T. J., 104 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent.

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POPE, A. L., 9 Laurel Avenue, Englefield Green, Surrey.

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RAYNER, J. N., Fairbourne, 28 The Rise, Sevenoaks, Kent.

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SHEARING, MRS R. E. B., 29 The Ridge, Surbiton, Surrey.

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SIMPSON, MRS L., La Lodola, Seale Hill, Reigate, Surrey.

SIMPSON, L. I., Leywood House, Groombridge, via Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

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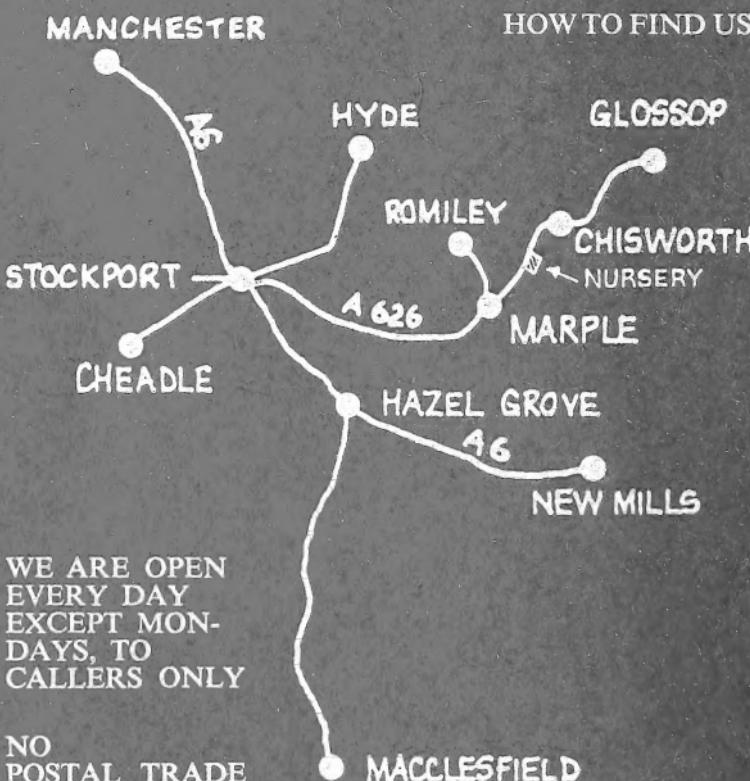


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